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## Patterson: Protect Our Ash Trees Before It's Too Late

*Patterson's Senate Resolution 49 Seeks Federal Assistance in Dealing with Emerald Ash Borer*

**LANSING** – The Senate Natural Resources and Environment Committee passed a resolution to urge the Congress of the United States and the United States Department of Agriculture to provide assistance in the effort to deal with the infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer, Senator Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, announced.

“The Emerald Ash Borer has devastated many of the communities I represent. “This is just a small introduction into the magnitude of damage this insect could cause throughout our communities and great state. Now that we have identified the problem, we cannot stand idle watching our quality of life and a great natural resource die.”

“I will continue my efforts to contain and eradicate this insect with the Department of Agriculture as well as the Department of Natural Resources,” Patterson confirmed. “However, Michigan needs the technical and financial assistance from Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture in order to accomplish this goal.”

The Emerald Ash Borer, an aggressive Asian insect, is rapidly threatening virtually all of the ash trees in Michigan. There are as many as a billion ash trees in the state. Six southeastern Michigan counties, including Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne, have been quarantined. The beetle has killed 5 million of the 28 million ash trees in the quarantined area.

The quarantine on all ash trees and ash wood products, including firewood, is in effect in all 6 affected counties to prevent and control its spread. Under the quarantine, it is illegal to move ash trees, branches, lumber, firewood, and wood chips larger than one inch in diameter outside the six counties.

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“Camping is a favorite of Michiganders during the summer months. That means the transportation of infected firewood is highly likely and would rapidly increase the spread of the insect to unaffected areas. It is extremely urgent we notify everyone of the severity of the Emerald Ash Borer,” Patterson explained. “If you realize you or someone else has inadvertently moved firewood out of the quarantined areas, the wood must be burned completely and the incident reported to the state’s toll-free Emerald Ash Borer hotline immediately.” The toll-free hotline is (866) 325-0023.

The Emerald Ash Borer belongs to a group of insects known as metallic wood-boring beetles. Adults are dark metallic green in color and ½ inch in length and 1/6 inch wide, and are only present from mid May until late July. Larvae are creamy white in color and are found under the bark. Usually their presence goes undetected until the trees show symptoms of infestation. The first sign is typically a display of the upper third of a tree dying back first, followed by the rest the next year.

City of Northville Public Works Director Jim Gallogly testified before the Senate Natural Resources and Environment Committee on the on the affects of the Emerald Ash Borer in Southeast Michigan.

**Note: A downloadable photograph of Senator Patterson and Jim Gallogly, City of Northville Public Works Director, testifying before the committee is available on the Senate Photowire, located at <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/>.**

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